



PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Announces 4th Annual Summer Nights Initiative

Program Expands Recreational Opportunities for Youth within Urban Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Governor Charlie Baker | Lt. Governor Karyn Polito

Matthew Beaton, EEA Secretary

Leo Roy, DCR Commissioner

Governor's Press Office

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BOSTON — Today, Governor Charlie Baker joined Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Matthew Beaton and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Leo Roy to announce the fourth annual *Summer Nights Initiative*, which increases programming and extends the hours of operations at select pools and athletic complexes in several cities across the state. The Baker-Polito Administration first implemented the Summer Nights Initiative in 2015, and this year the DCR has partnered with nine organizations serving youth at 13 locations within the Cities of Boston, Brockton, Lawrence, Lowell, New Bedford, Springfield and Worcester to provide increased programming for area youth. Additionally, eight state pools and two spray decks managed by the DCR will have extended hours on Thursdays in the Cities of Boston, Chicopee, Everett, Lawrence, Malden and Worcester.

“With the summer season in full swing, we are proud to provide opportunities for youth across the Commonwealth to get outside, stay active, and interact with one another in a safe and fun environment during school vacation months,” **said Governor Charlie Baker.** “Importantly, the Summer Nights Initiative

offers recreational resources and additional programming to young people and their families within the state parks system and local facilities, ensuring increased opportunities they will truly benefit from.”

“The Summer Nights Initiative impacts youth within urban communities by offering activities that are both engaging and entertaining,” **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**. “We are pleased to partner with numerous stakeholders to enable area youth to get outside and explore some of the state’s most popular facilities while promoting healthy and active lifestyles.”

Furthermore, the DCR recently began its popular [Free Family Flicks](#) movie series. Movies will be shown at Fall River Heritage State Park in Fall River, the Martini Memorial Shell in Hyde Park, Sylvester Baxter State Park in Somerville, the Charles River Esplanade’s Hatch Memorial Shell in the Back Bay, Mary O’Malley Park in Chelsea, and Pope John Paul II Park in Dorchester. Featured movies include Despicable Me 3, the Emoji Movie, Cars 3, Elf, Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle, Coco, Beauty and the Beast, and Thor: Ragnarok. The Free Family Flicks program provides family fun and entertainment at no charge (parking fees may apply depending on location).

“Situated throughout the Commonwealth are wonderful parks offering excellent access to the natural world for children and their families to explore,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton**. “The Summer Nights Initiative ensures that select facilities, such as parks, pools and spray decks stay open longer to provide additional recreational opportunities for today’s youth to enjoy.”

“The Baker-Polito Administration continues to support and grow important programs such as the Summer Nights Initiative by not only extending the hours of operations at select facilities, but also fostering strong community partnerships to provide quality programming to area children and their families,” **said Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Leo Roy**. “Contained within the state parks system is over 450,000 acres of public land, providing excellent locations for kids to be kids in safe and inclusive environments. We are grateful to the Governor for his strong support of our state parks.”

The Summer Nights Initiative to extend summer operating hours at select locations will continue through August 17, 2018. Below is a full list of extended hours and programming for additional youth access.

The following 10 water/swimming facilities will have extended hours of operations on Thursdays in July until 7:45 PM and in August until 7:30 PM:

- Allied Veterans Memorial Pool (65 Elm St, Everett, MA)
- Holland Memorial Pool (108 Mountain Ave, Malden, MA)
- Olsen Pool (95 Turtle Pond Pkwy, Hyde Park, Boston, MA)
- Sara Jane Sherman Memorial Pool (750 Meadow St, Chicopee, MA)

- Southwest Corridor Park Spraydecks (Jamaica Plain, Boston, MA)
- Bennett Field (Veterans Memorial) Pool (1260 Main St, Worcester, MA)
- Lt. Colonel Edward J. Higgins Pool (180 Crawford St, Lawrence, MA)
- Ryan Wading Pool (350 River St, Mattapan, Boston, MA)
- Melnea Cass Pool (120 Martin Luther King Blvd, Roxbury, Boston, MA)

DCR is working in conjunction with nine community partners to provide an exciting schedule of recreational, educational, cultural, and arts programs for kids, teens, and young adults to learn new skills and socialize with one another. Programs such as basketball, flag-football, floor hockey, kickball, dodgeball, volleyball, and ping pong, as well as, dancing, fitness, talent shows, fishing, and arts and crafts will be featured. The DCR's program partners are Score4More, PIM, Elevate Boston Foundation, Urban League of Springfield, Lawrence Boys and Girls Club, Greater Lowell Boys and Girls Club, Dennison Community Center in New Bedford, Brockton Boys and Girls Club, and Boys and Girls Club Family Center in Springfield. Special programming through the summer months includes:

Mondays:

Moynihan Recreational Complex (1015 Truman Parkway, Hyde Park), 6:00 PM-9:00 PM, the PIM Project will be hosting organized sports and games including basketball, flag-football, and food.

Mary Hannon Park (Dudley Street, Dorchester), 5:00 PM-8:00 PM, Score4More in collaboration with One Love Sports Academy will host a basketball league and other health and wellness activities (this is a City of Boston park).

Brockton Boys and Girls Club (233 Warren Street, Brockton) 6:00 PM-10:00 PM, activities include basketball, floor hockey, soccer, dodgeball, volleyball, tournaments, dances, talent shows, and more. Contact (508) 584-5209 or visit www.bgcbrockton.org for more information.

Boys and Girls Club Family Center (100 Acorn Street, Springfield), 5:30 PM-8:30 PM, activities include basketball, art, archery, and games. For more information and to register please call (413) 739-4743.

Tuesdays:

Lorber Playground (Centre Street at Columbus Avenue, Jamaica Plain), 6:00 PM-9:00 PM, Score4More will offer basketball games, fitness, dance, children's youth and arts activities, and food.

Marcella Park (Marcella Street, Roxbury), 5:00pm-8:00 PM, Score4More in collaboration with Hawthorne Youth and Community Center will offer basketball skills and drills and health and wellness activities (this is a City of Boston park).

Lawrence Boys and Girls Club, (136 Water Street, Lawrence) 6:00 PM-9:00 PM, activities include basketball games and competitions, dance instruction, fitness training and recreational games including pool, ping-pong and carpet ball. No membership is required, and open to all youth ages 13-18.

Greater Lowell Boys and Girls Club (657 Middlesex Street, Lowell), 6:00 PM-8:00 PM, youth will have access to the gymnasium, fitness room, teen room, career and college readiness room, teen robotics room, makerspace, and music clubhouse.

Urban League's Camp Atwater Campsite (Lake Lashaway, North Brookfield), 5:00 PM-9:00 PM, Urban League of Springfield will be hosting organized activities including basketball, kickball, dodgeball, fishing, music, fencing, pottery, arts & crafts, tennis instruction, and food. The program is free of charge and open to greater Springfield and Worcester area youth ages 13-18. Call (413) 739-7211 ext. 103 to learn more and register. Transportation is provided from Springfield.

Melnea Cass Recreational Complex (120 MLK Jr. Boulevard, Roxbury) and Malcolm X Park (a City of Boston park), 6:00 PM-10:00 PM, Elevate Boston will offer basketball, swimming, soccer, track, flag football, tennis, double-dutch, kickball, painting, arts and crafts, visual storytelling, and more. Open to all youth ages 13-21.

Brockton Boys and Girls Club (233 Warren Street, Brockton), 6:00 PM-10:00 PM, activities include basketball, floor hockey, soccer, dodgeball, volleyball, tournaments, dances, talent shows and more. Contact (508) 584-5209 or visit www.bgcbrockton.org for more information.

Boys and Girls Club Family Center (100 Acorn Street, Springfield), 5:30 PM-8:30 PM, activities include basketball, art, archery and games. For more information and to register please call (413) 739-4743.

Wednesdays:

Roberts Park (Dunbar Ave at Washington Street, Dorchester), 6:00 PM-9:00 PM, the PIM Project will be hosting organized sports including basketball, flag-football and football (this is a City of Boston park).

Brockton Boys and Girls Club (233 Warren Street, Brockton), 6:00 PM-10:00 PM, activities include basketball, floor hockey, soccer, dodgeball, volleyball, tournaments, dances, talent shows and more. Contact (508) 584-5209 or visit www.bgcbrockton.org for more information.

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Thursdays:

Lorber Playground (Centre Street at Columbus Ave, Jamaica Plain), 6:00 PM-9:00 PM, Score4More will offer basketball games, fitness, dance, children's youth and arts activities, and food.

Marcella Park (Highland Street at Marcella Street in Roxbury), 5:00 PM-8:00 PM, Score4More in collaboration with Hawthorne Youth and Community Center will offer a basketball league (this is a City of Boston park).

Lawrence Boys and Girls Club (136 Water Street, Lawrence), 6:00 PM-9:00 PM, activities include basketball games and competitions, dance instruction, fitness training and recreational games including pool, ping-pong, and carpet ball. No membership required, and open to all youth ages 13-18.

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Brockton Boys and Girls Club (233 Warren Street, Brockton), 6:00 PM-10:00 PM, activities include basketball, floor hockey, soccer, dodgeball, volleyball, tournaments, dances, talent shows and more. Contact (508) 584-5209 or visit www.bgcbrockton.org for more information.

Boys and Girls Club Family Center (100 Acorn Street, Springfield), 5:30 PM-8:30 PM, activities include basketball, art, archery and games. For more information and to register please call (413) 739-4743.

Additionally, the Dennison Memorial Community Center in New Bedford will be hosting free summer programs for youth aged 5-16, Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM-4:30 PM. Programming includes field trips, tournaments and educational programs.

The extended hours of operations will compliment other programs currently offered by the DCR for families at the hundreds of state parks, forests, reservations, beaches and other facilities across the state year round. To read more about the expansion of hours at select pools and parks, and for additional programs by DCR, please visit the agency's [webpage](#).

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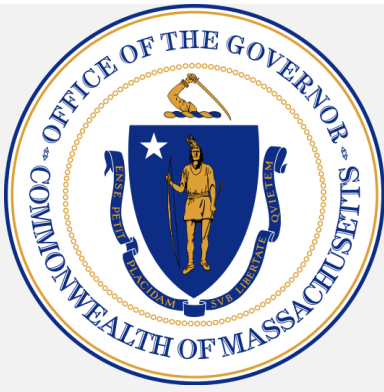
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EEA seeks to protect, preserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's environmental resources while ensuring a clean energy future for the state's residents. Through the stewardship of open space, protection of environmental resources, and enhancement of clean energy, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs works tirelessly to make Massachusetts a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

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[Department of Conservation & Recreation →](#)

DCR manages state parks and oversees more than 450,000 acres throughout Massachusetts. It protects, promotes, and enhances the state's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

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